WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for generating a preview of a content package file, the
2 method comprising:
3   retrieving first level content files referred to in the content package file;
4   extracting content from the first level content files and replacing references to
5 the first level content files in the content package file with the content from the first level
6 content files to create a combined file; and
7   creating a preview of at least a portion of the content package file based on the
8 content in the combined file.

1   2.   The method according to claim 1 wherein the preview of the content
2 package file includes meta-data about the first level content files.

1   3.   The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2   determining whether the first level content files contain references to second
3 level content files.

1   4.   The method according to claim 3 further comprising:
2   if the first level content files contains references to second level content files,
3 retrieving the second level content files;
4   extracting content from the second level content files and replacing the
5 references with content from the second level content files.

1   5.   The method according to claim 4 wherein the preview of the content
2 package file contains information about the first level and the second level content files in an
3 hierarchical format.

1   6.   The method according to claim 5 wherein the hierarchical format of
2 the preview is expandable to view the information about the first level and the second level
3 content files.

1   7.   The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2   importing the content package file to a portal server computer.

1   8.   The method according to claim 7 further comprising:

2   storing the content package file and the first level content files on the portal

3   server computer, wherein the first level content files overwrite duplicative files that are stored

4   on the portal server computer.

1   9.   The method according to claim 7 further comprising:

2   storing the content package file and the first level content files on the portal

3   server computer, wherein the first level content files do not overwrite duplicative files that

4   are stored on the portal server computer.

1   10.   The method according to claim 1 further comprising:

2   displaying a notification if any of the references to any content files contain

3   errors.

1   11.   A computer program product for previewing a content package file

2   comprising code stored on a computer readable medium, the code comprising:

3   code for fetching first level content files referred to in the content package file;

4   code for obtaining content from the first level content files and replacing

5   references to the first level content files in the content package file with the content from the

6   first level content files to create a combined file; and

7   code for generating a preview of the content package file based on the content

8   in the combined file.

1   12.   The computer program product of claim 11 further comprising:

2   code for displaying a notification if any of the references to the first level

3   content files contain errors.

1   13.   The computer program product of claim 11 further comprising:

2   code for determining whether any of the first level content files contain

3   references to second level content files.

1   14.   The computer program product of claim 13 further comprising:

2   code for fetching the second level content files referred to in the first level

3   content files;

4   code for obtaining content from the second level content files;

5   code for replacing the references to the second level content files with the

6   content from the second level content files to create the combined file.

1   15. The computer program product of claim 14 wherein the code for

2 previewing the content package file displays the content from the first level and the second

3 level content files in an hierarchical format.

1   16. The computer program product of claim 15 wherein the hierarchical

2 format is expandable to view the content from the first level and the second level content

3 files.

1   17. The computer program product of claim 11 further comprising:

2   code for importing the content package file to a portal server computer.

1   18. The computer program product of claim 11 further comprising:

2   code for storing the content package file and the first level content files on the

3 portal server computer so that the first level content files do not overwrite duplicative files

4 stored on the portal server computer.

1   19. A computer system that previews a content package file containing

2 references to content files, the computer system comprising:

3   a portal server that fetches content files referenced within the content package

4 file, replaces references to the content files with content extracted from the content files to

5 create a combined file, and creates a preview screen of the content package file and the

6 content files using the combined file; and

7   a client that displays the preview screen.

1   20. The computer system according to claim 19 wherein the preview

2 screen displays a notification if any of the references contain errors.

1   21. The computer system according to claim 19 wherein the preview

2 screen displays the content from the content files in an hierarchical format.

1   22. The computer system according to claim 19 wherein the portal server

2 imports the content package file and the content files from the client if a user selects an

3 import option after viewing the preview screen.

1   23. The computer system according to claim 19 wherein the content files

2 include first level content files and second level content files.

1   24.   The computer system according to claim 19 wherein the preview

2   screen displays meta-data about the content files.